

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. - 26. (canceled)

1           27. (currently amended) A method of selling personal,  
2 non-transferable ~~use rights~~ usage rights of unlimited availability,  
3 said method comprising the steps of:

4           (a) electronically offering through a communications  
5 network personal nontransferable ~~use~~ usage rights which are execut-  
6 able either at ~~use~~ prices that aim at reflecting the marginal costs  
7 associated with the execution of ~~executing~~ said ~~use~~ usage rights or  
8 under conditions of a competitive supply environment;

9           (b) storing in a database a group of consumers records  
10 and offering through said network to a sample of said group a price  
11 for said ~~use~~ usage rights to be paid by each member of said sample  
12 in case of accepting the offer;

13           (c) causing said sample to vote on said offered ~~use~~ usage  
14 rights by members of said sample stating their willingness to pay  
15 for either accepting or rejecting said offer and collecting results  
16 of said vote through said network;

17           (d) through said network determining any pivotal payments  
18 from any pivotal member of said voting sample whose stated willing-  
19 ness to pay for a certain outcome alone was sufficient to swing the  
20 outcome from ~~one~~ and outcome undesirable to him or her, said  
21 pivotal payment comprising a margin between all pro and contra

22 votes while either ~~in~~ including or excluding the vote of ~~the~~ a  
23 said pivotal voter member under consideration;

24 (e) through said network accepting or rejecting offers of  
25 said ~~use~~ usage rights for all members of said voting sample accord-  
26 ing to the result of the vote; and

27 (f) through said network correspondingly applying the  
28 offered price for the ~~use~~ usage rights to ~~the whole~~ said group in  
29 the case of an approving vote of the sample, but taking ~~the sam-~~  
30 ~~ple's~~ a revealed willingness to pay for said ~~use~~ usage rights by  
31 the sample as a basis for the price to be paid by the remaining  
32 members of the group in the case of a rejecting vote of the sample  
33 while excluding ~~same~~ said voting sample from the payment for said  
34 use usage right rights.

1 28. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 27  
2 wherein said ~~use~~ prices at which said usage rights are executable  
3 are ~~is~~ zero or negative in case ~~marginal~~ the costs associated with  
4 the execution of said usage rights do not justify the expense of  
5 collecting proceeds or ~~the~~ in case a supplier wants to promote the  
6 use of his or her good goods being covered by said usage rights.

1 29. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 27,  
2 further storing additional groups of consumers records in the  
3 database in order to allow segregation of consumers into homoge-  
4 neous groups in respect to the members' supposed marginal willing-  
5 ness to pay for said ~~use~~ usage rights, the members' ability to pay,

6 and/or the members' supposed pattern of interest in said ~~use~~ usage  
7 rights.

1 30. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 27  
2 wherein, after ~~the~~ a said sample revealing a willingness to pay for  
3 said usage rights ~~voting process~~, the prices for said ~~use~~ usage  
4 rights are offered to ~~the~~ suppliers of the goods covered by said  
5 usage rights, said suppliers ~~who then decide~~ deciding whether or  
6 not to accept.

1 C1 31. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 27  
2 wherein said sample's revealed willingness to pay for said ~~use~~  
3 usage rights is taken as a basis for the price to be paid by the  
4 remaining members of the group, irrespective of whether or not said  
5 voting sample approved the purchase of said ~~use~~ usage rights at the  
6 price voted upon.

1 32. (currently amended) The method defined in claim 27  
2 wherein, in case of a rejection of the offered ~~use~~ usage rights,  
3 the members of said voting sample are being held not to employ any  
4 alternative means of gaining said ~~use~~ usage rights for the duration  
5 of the rejected ~~use~~ usage rights's validity.

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